नेटवर्क के अन्तर्गत आ जाने की संभावना है;

(घ) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ङ) क्या निकट भविष्य में और अधिक केन्द्रों के इस नेटवर्क के अन्तर्गत आ जाने की संभावना है; और

(च) यदि हां, तो अब तक चुने गये केन्द्रों का राज्य-वार ब्यौरा क्या है ?

संचार मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री सुखराम) : (क) जी हां।

(ख) उपग्रह संचार प्रौद्योगिकी का प्राथमिक रूप से प्रयोग पहाड़ी, द्वीप समूह तथा दुर्गम क्षेत्रों सहित देश के दूरस्थ क्षेत्रों में विश्वसनीय दूरसंचार सुविधाएं प्रदान करने के लिए किया जा रहा है जहां स्थलीय माध्यम से दूरसंचार सुविधाएं प्रदान कर पाना तकनीकी तथा आर्थिक रूप से व्यवहार्य नहीं है।

(ग) जी हां।

(घ) उत्तर-पूर्व क्षेत्र के पांच स्थानों अर्थात् शिलांग, दीमापुर, ईटानगर, विलियमनगर, तथा इंफाल में प्रायोगिक आधार पर इसे चालू किया गया है।

(ङ) जी हां।

(च) आठवीं पंचवर्षीय योजना में लगभग बीस स्थानों पर यह सुविधा प्रदान की जानी है, बशर्ते कि संसाधन उपलब्ध हों, जिनके ब्यौरे इस प्रकार हैं :–

अरूणाचल प्रदेश	3
मिजोरम	3
मणीपुर	4
नागालैंड	5
मेघालय	1
त्रिपुरा	4

Installation of 75 micro-earth stations vi asatellite in the countr

860. DR. SHRIKANT RAMACHANNDRA JICHKAR: Will the Minister OF COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present stage of the plan to install 75 micro-earth stations (VSATs) to transmit money order advices via satellite communication;

(b) what is the extent to which cost of money order operations will be reduced as a result of this;

(c) what are the new value added services which the department plans to start after such VSATs are established; and

(d) what is the total cost to be incurred on this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) For the implementation of the Satellite Money Orer project, the department has decided to sign Memorandum of Understanding with the department of Electronics.

(b) TTe actual cost of operations through this system ann be known after introducting the scheme.

(c) In the second phase of the Project it is proposed to start certain new services as value added services. their details are being worked out.

(d) The cost of project is estimated to be Rs. 12 crores.

Automatic integrated mail processing system in Bombay

861. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the time by when will the installation of the Automatic Integrated Mail Processing System at Bombay is likely to be completed;

(b) what are the reasons for the delay in commissioning this system; and

(c) what is the total cost of the system and what are its benefits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) (a) The Automatic integrated Mail Processing System at Bombay has been commissioned on 29.4.93.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The letter sorting machine has been procurred at a cost of approximately Rs. 20 crores which includes a customs duty component of approximately Rs. 9 crores. The main benefits of the project are faster and better quality sorting, facilitating quicker delivery of mail.

MTNL staff indulging in racket

862. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that CBI officials have arrested six persons including employees of Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) for running a racket of providing cheap domestic and international calls to businessmen etc. as reported in the Hindustan Times of 9th July, 1993;

(b) if so, what are the details of telephone rackets running at various places in the country and detected so far during each of the last three years;

(c) whether Government have been monitoring and checking the domestic and international calls coming and going from various telephone exchanges in Delhi, Bombay, Madras, Calcutta, Srinagar cities being made in connivance with telephone operators and since how long these rackets have been operating;

(d) what are the details in this regard and extent of daily loss caused to Government during each of the last three years;

(e) what effective preventive steps have been taken to check these rackets operating in connivance with the telephone operators at each telephone exchange in the country; and

(f) what instructions have been issued by Government to each telephone Department in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir. The C.B.I. officials have arrested some persons including employees of MTNL on 24.6.1993 after conducting a raid on the basis of a complaint lodged by MTNL. Five officials of MTNL have been placed under suspension in connection with this racket.

(b) Cases of diversion of telephone lines for STD/ISD purposes, tampering with telephone meters, tampering with mater readings, misuse of service telephones for STD/ISD purposes have been reported from various places in the country as under:—

Year	*Number of cases*
1990-91	4
1991-92	21
1992-93	26

Disciplinary action has been initiated against 119 officials found involved in such cases.

(c) and (d) It is difficult to say since how long these rackets have been operating. However, where specific cases come to notice during vigilance inspections and surprise checks or observation, suitable action has been taken, where necessary with the help of police and the C.B.I. The calls put through by the telephone